

# March, 2022

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



## KI BOIS NEWS

On March 24, 2022, KI BOIS Community Action—Poteau honored a new building and an old friend. The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony allowed the Board of Directors, staff and community members to pay tribute to longtime KI BOIS Board Member Kenny Monroe with the dedication of the Conference Room in his honor.

Several family members, including Kenny's wife Catherine, were on-hand for the lunch and ceremony. In addition, the attendees sang happy birthday to Mrs. Monroe, who turned 90 the week before. When asked how long Kenny had been a Board member at KI BOIS, she responded "always!"

KI BOIS Executive Director / CEO Carroll Huggins gave special recognition to the City of Poteau, architect Michael Riley, Machill Construction Company, former KI BOIS Maintenance & Facilities Director John Jones and the KI BOIS Board of Directors for their part in the vision and fruition of the new facility. "It's something to be proud of and will be here for generations to come," said Huggins.

The new LeFlore County office is located in the Poteau Industrial Park, at 219 Kerr Avenue. The beautiful building houses all of the programs available to LeFlore County residents including KATS, Developmental Disabilities, SSVF, ESG Case Management and Emergency Services, and is home base for San Bois CASA.

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony from Poteau Chamber of Commerce, the March Board Meeting was held in the Kenneth E. Monroe Conference Room. It was a "red letter day for KI BOIS Community Action."



## *From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO*

### *R. Carroll Huggins*



Community Action Partnership: Helping People, Changing Lives. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated is one of 17 Community Action Agencies in Oklahoma and over 1,000 in America in partnership. Community Action principles make us unique and distinctive. Community Action opens doors and leads the way: We provide access to the opportunities people need to improve their lives, to help themselves and each other. Community Action turns hope into reality: We identify the needs of the entire community, collaborate with others in the community, and take action to improve life for everyone in the community. Community Action empathizes: Our staff and volunteers are from the community they serve. Community Action treats people with respect: We treat people the way we want to be treated. Community Action says "yes": If we do not provide the needed service, we will link you to those who do. Community Action gives a voice to the poor: Through our advocacy, we seek to make society more flexible and responsive to the needs of the poor. Community Action mirrors the diversity of our communities: Our local boards include low-income people, local public officials, and business and community groups. The promise of Community Action: "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

*Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director / CEO*



Senator Roger Thompson, who represents Senate District 8, which is comprised of Okmulgee and McIntosh counties as well as portions of Okfuskee and Muskogee counties, is shown visiting with KATS Director Charla Sloan at a legislative luncheon in Henryetta on March 4th.

## **KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Executive Board**

John Cook

**Board Chairperson**

Cecil Williams

**1st Vice Chair**

Jan Coplen

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Frank Phillips

**Parliamentarian**

Joy Walker

**Executive Committee Member**

### **Members of the Board**

Joyce Cleveland

Janice Williams

De'Anne Booth

Jeremy Bullard

Rosalind Didlott

Lyndon Emberton

Henry Burris

Roy Gordon, Jr.

Kodey Toney

Charles Regan

Ross Selman

Gene Bass

Bud Smithson

### **Executive Leadership**

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP

**Executive Director/CEO**

Tom Marlatt

**Associate Director/CFO**

Larry Hall

**Associate Director/COO**

## **KI BOIS NEWS**

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Royce Alverson, Editor  
918-967-3325, Ext. 134  
Royce.Alverson@kibois.org



## **Calendar of Events**



March 17  
March 24

March 25

St. Patrick's Day  
Ribbon Cutting & Dedication of new Poteau Office  
KI BOIS Board Meeting  
FGP Recognition Banquet



This story ran in the November, 2017 KI BOIS NEWS. It's a great story that gives insight as to who Kenny Monroe was. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather. He was advocate for the less fortunate. He served as a KI BOIS Community Action Board Member for over 50 years, and was recognized for his efforts at the National Community Action Partnership conference in 2014.

I hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane, as written by former Public Relations Director Kay Box. Hopefully this will somehow give those of you who weren't privileged to know Mr. Monroe an insight as to how much KI BOIS Community Action and it's programs meant to him.

## *A Legacy of Service ...*

Kenneth Edward "Kenny" Monroe Jr., 89, of Leflore, OK passed away Thursday, November 2, 2017 in Talihina, OK. Mr. Monroe was born November 1st, 1928 in Shawano, WI. He was a retired veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served in WWTT and Korea. Monroe was a member of the Leflore Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Sr. and Ilda L. (Mork) Monroe.

Mr. Monroe leaves behind a legacy of professional service that began not long after being medically discharged from the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He and Catherine were married on April 30th, 1950 and embarked on a 67 year journey of service together.

When a motorcycle accident ended his service career, Kenny spent two years in his native Wisconsin rehabilitating at Veterans Administration hospital before returning to California with his growing family. He had visited Oklahoma and wanted to move here permanently. He liked the fact that winters in Oklahoma reminded him of home—only not as harsh—and longed to live in the country, so he moved from California and settled near Leflore in 1954. He and Catherine moved into their home in Leflore on New Years' Day 1968. It was about this time Kenny became involved with KT BOTS Community Action Agency where he served in various capacities, including a member of the Board of Directors over the next 50 years. Monroe was recognized during the 2014 National Community Action Convention held in Washington, D.C. as a Community Action Pioneer.

At the urging of former Leflore TSD Superintendent W.G. Stockton, he also became active in the Leflore community. The two successfully pushed for the town's incorporation in 1967 and Monroe helped orchestrate the land donation that led to Campbell

Park – dedicated by U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert in 1971. Monroe also served as Town Clerk for Leflore from its inception and also as Town Marshal for a period of time.

His love of government and politics led to being named to the Democratic Party precinct, county and 3rd Congressional District chairmanships - serving in the latter for 15 years. He also served on the Oklahoma Election Board for 12 years - having been appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors.

He was a member of the state Juvenile Justice Advisor Board and was active as a retired veteran. He was last surviving charter member of the Disabled American Veterans LeFlore County Chapter (63).

Mr. Monroe was never one to back down from a challenge whether it was negotiating the maze of government paperwork in pursuit of grants and services for the town or coaching the town's "outsider" fast-pitch softball team, he was involved in virtually every facet of community life - both as a leader and behind the scenes.

A lifelong Green Bay Packers fan, Mr. Monroe remained active professionally until 2016 when his health prevented him from traveling.

Mr. Monroe is survived by his wife, Catherine, three daughters and sons in laws, Barbara Jean Monroe, Diana June & Casey Warren and Julie Ann and Johnny Warren and one son, Charles Franklin Monroe.



Kenneth "Kenny" Monroe was honored during the 2014 National Community Action Gala for being a Pioneer in Community Action. Left, The Chair of the National Board of Directors, Mr. Thomas Tenorio, presented Mr. Monroe a plaque as Mr. Carroll Huggins looks on.



Above, KI BOIS Community Action staff pose with Mr. Monroe after he received his Pioneer Award.



Champ Hodgens Estates in Hartshorne.

Baysul Balentine Estates in Heavener.

Bob Miller Estates in McCurtain.

- One-bedroom, no smoking apartment for rent.
- Must be 62 or older and meet income guidelines.
- Rent and Security Deposit is based upon income. Pet deposit is required.
- Units are total electric with the water, sewer and sanitation paid.
- Washer and Dryer available in the community room.

Contact Pam Harless, Director at 918-967-3325 for application.

## 10 YEARS

### KI BOIS Donates to a Good Cause

Robert Boren.....an eight year old, is struggling with a heart condition which has him and his family traveling to Mayo Clinic. KI BOIS Community Action staff put together a Family Game/Movie night basket which was auctioned off at a recent benefit to help defray their expenses.

Pictured is Larry Hall as he presents the basket to Gina Hixson, DD staff.

All contents of the basket was donated by staff and brought \$100.00 at the silent auction. A big THANK YOU goes to KI BOIS Community Action staff for their generosity.



### Congratulations.....



Above, 1st place table at the 4th Annual Chamber Banquet held in Stigler belonged to KI BOIS Community Action. The theme of this year's banquet was "Hollywood...Walking the Red Carpet." Each business who purchased a Platinum Package was responsible for decorating their table with this theme. Kay Box and Linda Love put their talents and resources together and succeeded. Right, KI BOIS Community Action Executive Director / CEO and Box are shown with the plaque given to the winning table.



**Confidential crisis support for the deaf and hard of hearing**

Chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net)

Text to **838255** or

Call TTY **1-800-799-4889**

KATS and Veteran Services are working together to prevent veteran suicide. These decals are displayed in all KATS vehicles in hopes that it will help direct veterans in need toward mental health services.

"If it can save one veteran, the campaign will be worth it," said Charla Sloan, KATS Director.

The over 250 decals were provided to KATS by Bill Bennett, Local Veterans Employment Representative with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

### In Memoriam



### Bobbie Alverson

August 4, 1942 — February 13, 2022

Bobbie is the mother of Royce Alverson, KI BOIS Community & Public Relations Director. Bobbie was a former KI BOIS Head Start teacher and bus driver.





# WE ARE HIRING!

A career with KI BOIS is a career with a future! ✓



KI BOIS Community Action is the largest non-profit employer in S.E. Oklahoma.  
We provide growth opportunities and a great place to work!

[www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org)

**EMPLOYMENT Opportunities**

All employment opportunities are posted on our website, [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org). **These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.** (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.)  
Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.

Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org). Applications should be returned to:

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462  
Attention: Human Resources**



## The Promise of Community Action

Community Action **changes** people's lives, **embodies** the **spirit of hope**, **improves** communities, and makes America **a better place to live**. We care about the **entire community**, and we are dedicated to **helping people help themselves and each other**.



**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.**

## Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.